

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: July 13-14, 2017**

TAB 7

DATE SUBMITTED: Tuesday, June 13, 2017

SUBMITTED BY: Lauren Seney, Chair, TS-SIS

ON BEHALF OF ENTITY: TS-SIS and OBS-SIS

BOARD LIAISON: Meg Kribble

REQUIRES: ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: TS-SIS Request for Continued Representation for ALA Subject Analysis Committee, ALA Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access, and the MARC Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: The decision to discontinue funding for the three cataloging representatives and to eliminate their status as representatives of AALL will have a negative impact on the representation of legal materials in national and international cataloging standards. TS-SIS members have a long history with these three committees and have made a significant impact in the representation of legal materials in our catalogs. We do not seek the reinstatement of financial support, but do seek the support of the board to allow these three positions to continue to function in the manner that they have historically.

MOTION FOR BOARD ACTION: To rename the Representatives to the ALA Metadata and Cataloging Committees and to the MARC Advisory Committee and allow the appointment of these individuals by the SIS or SIS's providing the financial support for them.

FUNDS REQUIRED: None

Requesting Entity: Technical Services Special Interest Section and Online Bibliographic Services Special Interest Section

SIS Chair: Lauren Seney, lsene@wm.edu and Marjorie Crawford, mcrawfrd@law.rutgers.edu

Summary Report in Support of the Renaming of the Representatives to the ALA Metadata and Cataloging Committees and to the MARC Advisory Committee

The Technical Services SIS does not seek the reinstatement of funding for the “representatives program.” We do seek the support of AALL to allow the continued ability to send individuals to observe and participate in 3 cataloging committees (ALA Subject Analysis Committee, ALA Cataloging on Committee: Description and Access, and the MARC Advisory Committee).

The “representatives” to the ALA Subject Analysis Committee and the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access should be re-named as the Technical Services Liaison from AALL to the above committees. This falls in line with the terminology that ALA frequently uses to identify the members of the committees who are not affiliated with ALA. As communication between the committee members is crucial to the continued representation of legal materials in our catalogs it is import to support this interaction. These individuals will continue to be non-voting members of the committees, but will consider, suggest, and advise their respective committees on how law catalogers generally interpret cataloging rules, policies, and procedures. Updates will continue to be provided to the board as they have in the past.

The member of the MARC Advisory Committee should also be re-named as the Technical Services Liaison from AALL to MAC. Much like the above committees, communication is crucial in ensuring the proper representation of legal members. However, this position is a full, voting member of the Committee and needs to be recognized as the liaison from AALL. The work on this committee happens during the ALA Midwinter meeting in January and the ALA Annual meeting in June. Materials are distributed in the weeks leading up to the meeting, but discussion and voting on the topics occurs during these onsite meetings. Like in the ALA Committees, this individual will continue to consider, suggest, and advise on how law catalogers generally interpret cataloging rules, policies, and procedures and votes placed will be in conjunction with this. Updates will continue to be provided to the board as they have in the past.

Summary Report in Support of the change in appointing individuals to attend the meetings of the ALA Metadata and Cataloging Committees and to the MARC Advisory Committee

As stated above, the Technical Services SIS does not seek the reinstatement of funding for the “representatives program.” Historically the AALL Executive Board has requested assistance from the TS-SIS Chair in appointing a new representatives to each of the above committees. As these “representatives” were receiving financial support from the association, they were appointed by the AALL Executive Board. As TS-SIS will be investigating others ways to support these positions financially, they request the authority to appoint individuals to the committees. As financial assistance will be requested from other SIS’s, the appointment process may expand to include a representative from each SIS who is contributing funds and function as a multi-SIS committee.

Background Report:

The “representatives” to metadata committees of the American Library Association and MARC Steering Group serve as valuable links between the law librarian community and three influential and active committees working to shape the future of information research and discovery. While necessarily detail-oriented, the work of these committees happens within this larger context, a context in which information professionals are grappling with the problem of successfully transforming our rich trove of metadata out of its silo and into the evolving Semantic Web.

Our current AALL “representatives” help to set the agendas of the meetings they attend and actively participate in the real-time discussion of issues. Their expertise is greatly appreciated, and actively sought after, by these groups. Furthermore, they are conscientious about keeping AALL members well-informed about this wider professional discourse, and about soliciting feedback and input from AALL members so our community can contribute to it.

Law Libraries do not exist in a vacuum and the continued development of linked data standards, such as BibFrame, will only push greater integration in library catalogs. The continued presence of our “representatives” in the committees that develop national and international standards and policies means that we help shape these policies and standards, rather than being passive observers and implementers of policies and standards created by others. These representatives also fulfill a core expectation that our membership has in our association—that we be the recognized authority in all aspects of legal information.

MARC Advisory Committee (MAC)

The MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) was reconstituted in 2013 to continue the advisory role concerning MARC to the Library of Congress (LC), Library and Archives Canada (LAC), British Library (BL), and Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (DNB) (the MARC Steering Group) and to assume the role of a forum for broad and open discussion of standards used for representation of bibliographic data in machine-readable form. The new MAC is not sponsored by an ALA division. Before 2013 we had a representative to the ALCTS-MARBI committee (<http://www.ala.org/alcts/mgrps/cmtes/jnt-marbi>). When this committee was renamed and went under LITA (Library and Information Technology Association) in 2013, our then MARBI-rep was invited to join MAC. MARBI was an advisory group to the Library of Congress on MARC standards and we had a more than 25 year history of representation there.

The Library of Congress Network Development and MARC Standards Office maintain the MARC standard. When the MARC Advisory Committee, after its deliberations, votes to implement a change to the MARC standard, the Network Development and MARC Standards Office “makes it so.” MAC is in essence association-agnostic, as it does not report to ALA or any other body. The Library of Congress’ Network Development and MARC Standards Office changes the standard in accordance with the decisions voted upon by the MARC Advisory Committee and makes the revised standard available to libraries worldwide.

Our MARC Advisory Committee (MAC) “representative” is a full, voting member of MAC. This Committee is actively working on dozens of changes to MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) that will ease the pivotal transition of our legacy metadata, created and stored in a standard developed in the 1960s, to the 21st Century BIBFRAME model. As with the Subject Analysis Committee work on this

transition will be key to keeping our resources, and the metadata used to discover and utilize them, relevant in the Semantic Web.

ALA Subject Analysis Committee

The Subject Analysis Committee studies problems and recommend patterns, methods, and tools for optimizing subject and genre/form access to information resources, with an emphasis on classification and controlled vocabularies used to organize information. It also provides a liaison for those areas of interest between the Cataloging and Metadata Management Section of the ALA Association for Library Collections & Technical Services and other ALA and non-ALA organizations that have an interest in and concern for these systems, tools, and activities. The AALL Representative to this committee does not vote on the approval of the official documents from the committee, but does actively participate in discussions about contents on any issue related to controlled vocabularies and expresses opinions in favor or against an issue during the debate process.

Thanks to the efforts of our “representative” to ALA’s Subject Analysis Committee (SAC), the law community became the first specialized one to devise and implement Library of Congress-approved genre headings. These headings allow us more easily to separate resources *about* the law from resources containing the texts of laws. These new terms are already enhancing discoverability of resources in our current generation of faceted discovery environments, and will play an even greater role in the Semantic Web. More recently, the representatives have contributed to the preparation of a white paper which promotes the implementation of the new Library of Congress Demographic Group vocabulary in bibliographic and authority records. This will improve the discovery of materials designed for special audiences, or authored by particular groups such as judges, lawyers, professors, librarians etc. Our representative has, and still is, engaged in general discussions about the complications of retrospective implementation of genre terms. This trailblazing work is years ahead of the art, literature, and music communities.

ALA Cataloging Committee: Description and Access

The Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) is the body within the American Library Association responsible for developing official ALA positions on additions to and revisions to *RDA: Resource Description and Access*. A thorough introduction to CC:DA and its work is available in the pamphlet, [Building International Descriptive Cataloging Standards: The Role of the American Library Association’s Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access](#). The AALL “representative” to this committee has historically been a non-voting liaison for the law community.

In the recent years our “representative” to ALA’s CC:DA has proposed major revisions to Resource Description and Access (RDA), the current metadata standard in use by library professionals worldwide. These proposals were all approved by CC:DA and adopted by RDA’s Joint Steering Committee. These changes have resulted in significant improvements to discoverability of treaties, compilations of laws, and materials relating to international courts. Members of CC:DA, notably the ALA Representative to RDA's Joint Steering Committee, actively seek the assistance of the AALL "representative" when evaluating any RDA change proposals that touch on aspects of metadata and access for legal resources.